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Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Human resources management

Gratis personnel provided by Governments and other entities

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present document contains the annual report of the Secretary-General on the use of gratis personnel. The annual report concerns the situation during the period from 1 January to 31 December 2001.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 51/243 of 15 September 1997, in paragraph 12 of which the Secretary-General was requested to report annually on the use of gratis personnel, indicating, inter alia, their nationality, the duration of their service and the functions performed. The present report updates the previous annual report (A/55/728) and quarterly report (A/C.5/55/36) and covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2001.

2. By General Assembly decision 55/462 of 12 April 2001, the frequency of reporting on the situation of gratis personnel provided by Governments and other entities was changed from quarterly to annual, commencing with the period ending 31 December 2001.

II. Type I gratis personnel

3. Table 1 provides data on type I gratis personnel who serve under an established regime.[1] These are interns, associate experts and technical cooperation experts obtained on a non-reimbursable loan.[2] The total number for each category as at 31 December 2001 is compared with the numbers contained in previous reports.

4. The overall number of type I gratis personnel has decreased by 29.4 per cent, from 265 personnel as at 31 December 2000 to 187 personnel by 31 December 2001. The overall decrease is mainly due to a 51.8 per cent decrease in the number of associate experts (type Ib), from 218 as at 31 December 2000 to 105 by 31 December 2001. The number of interns (type Ia) went up from 39 in December 2000 to 68 in December 2001, an increase of 74 per cent. The number of technical cooperation experts (type Ic) increased by 75 per cent, from 8 to 14, over the reference period.

III. Type II gratis personnel

5. Table 2 provides information on the three type II gratis personnel in service as at 31 December 2001, by department or office, nationality and duration of service. Three nationalities are represented.

6. Table 3 shows the evolution of type II gratis personnel during the period from 31 December 2000 to 31 December 2001, by department or office. The total number of three type II gratis personnel as at 31 December 2001 shows a decrease by 93 per cent compared with the total of 43 as at 30 September 2000. The engagement of the 40 type II gratis personnel (forensic investigators) engaged by ICTY has been discontinued in 2001. The status of the two Korean economists engaged by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was modified in 2001 from type II gratis personnel to type Ic (technical assistance) as they are

[1] See section 1 of ST/AI/1999/6 of 28 May 1999 on gratis personnel.

[2] In conformity with their new personnel statute, all type I gratis personnel serving the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) which was established as a subsidiary body of the Security Council to replace the United Nations Special Commission as from 17 December 1999 (see A/51/688/Add.2, para. 4, and A/51/688/Add.3, para. 3), were phased out by 30 September 2000.

provided on a non-reimbursable loan under the provisions of ST/AI/231/Rev.1. Only three offices engaged type II gratis personnel as at 31 December 2001.

7. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights engaged one type II gratis personnel in 2001 as an indigenous people's rights lawyer. The General Assembly, in paragraph 12 of the annex to its resolution 50/157, requested Governments to second qualified indigenous people, in consultation with interested national indigenous organizations, to assist in the administration of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995-2004). The type II gratis personnel is assigned to the indigenous project team and carries out the following main functions: (a) providing support in particular to the newly established Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, including administrative and other necessary support for the members of the Permanent Forum; (b) providing research assistance to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people; (c) providing support for the working group on the draft declaration of the rights of indigenous peoples of the Commission on Human Rights and others; (d) undertaking research in relation to indigenous issues.

8. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) engaged in 2001 a type II gratis personnel as a hydrology expert. His services were provided by the Government of Germany as a component of a project implemented at ESCWA. One of the main objectives of the ESCWA natural resources programme is the need to enhance water resources management through conservation, rational use and protection of scare water resources, as well as the enforcement of water legislation and improved institutional function. The capacity of ESCWA to assist the Member States in the management of their water resources has been limited by shortages in financial resources and personnel and by a regional lack of supportive scientific and technical expertise. The type II gratis personnel works in a project aimed at: (a) integrated management of water resources; (b) upgrading of the computerized data system; (c) enhancement of the coordination mechanisms on shared water resources; and (d) capacity-building development in the ESCWA region.

9. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) engaged one type II gratis personnel in 2001 as a health economist to provide Member States with policy advice. The type II gratis personnel is responsible for the coordination of HIV/AIDS activities at ECA, as well as the follow-up to the African Development Forum 2000, at which HIV/AIDS was recognized as a threat not only to social development but also to economic growth in Africa. The main functions the type II gratis personnel performs are: (a) developing a capacity both within ECA and key regional institutions to sustain the fight against AIDS; (b) preparation of an annual report of the state of AIDS in Africa, in collaboration with UNAIDS and the World Health Organization; (c) preparing the African Development Forum 2000 follow-up meeting for 2002 Forum; (d) managing the ECA and UNDP HIV/AIDS and Development project in Ethiopia; and (e) preparation of the guidelines to mainstream HIV/AIDS within several divisions of ECA.

10. Table 4 shows the distribution of type II gratis personnel as at 31 December 2001, by nationality and duration of engagement. Compared with 2000, the number of nationalities decreased from six to three in 2001. The duration of engagement is more than one year for two type II gratis personnel and one year for the third.

11. Table 5 provides further information, as at 31 December 2001, on the nature of the functions performed by type II gratis personnel, by department or office.

12. Table 6 shows the number of regular staff members in the departments or offices where type II gratis personnel performed functions as at 31 December 2001, and the ratio of gratis personnel to regular staff. The ratio does not exceed 0.6 per cent.

Abbreviations used in the tables

ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNMOVIC	United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission
UNSCOM	United Nations Special Commission

Table 1
Evolution of type I gratis personnel

As at	*Interns*[a]	*Associate experts*[b]	*Technical cooperation experts*[c]	*UNSCOM/ UNMOVIC*[d]	*Total*
31 October 1996	131	76	31	112	350
30 September 1997	195	72	32	109	408
30 September 1998	214	115	31	18	378
30 September 1999	296[e]	290[e]	18	25	629[e]
31 December 1999	43[e]	268[e]	16	25	352[e]
31 March 2000	101[e]	270[e]	13	19[e]	403[e]
30 June 2000	206[e]	271[e]	12[e]	15	504[e]
30 September 2000	151	250	11	0	412
31 December 2000	39	218	8	0	265
31 December 2001	68	105	14	0	187

[a] Calculated as at 15 November 2001.
[b] 200 series.
[c] See ST/AI/231/Rev.1.
[d] See S/22508.
[e] Adjusted (see para. 8).

Table 2
Type II gratis personnel, by department or office, nationality and duration of service
(As at 31 December 2001)

Department or office	*Country of nationality*	*Count*	*Duration of service*
ECA	Spain	1	More than one year
OHCHR	New Zealand	1	One year
ESCWA	Germany	1	More than one year
Total		**3**	

Table 3
Evolution of the number of type II gratis personnel, by department or office
(31 December 2000-31 December 2001)

Department or office	*Reported on 31 December 2000*	*Reported on 31 December 2001*	*Change +/- (%)*
UNCTAD	2	0	-2 (-100%)
ESCWA	0	1	+1 (+100%)
OHCHR	0	1	+1 (+100%)
ECA	0	1	+1 (+100%)
Total	**2**	**3**	**+1 (+33%)**

Table 4
Type II gratis personnel, by nationality and duration of service
(As at 31 December 2001)

Country of nationality	*Count*	*Duration of service*
Spain	1	More than one year
New Zealand	1	One year
Germany	1	More than one year
Total	**3**	

Table 5
Functions performed by type II gratis personnel in service, by department or office
(As at 31 December 2001)

A. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Country of nationality	*Function*	*Number of persons*
Germany	Expert in hydrology	1
Total		**1**

B. Economic Commission for Africa

Country of nationality	*Function*	*Number of persons*
Spanish	Health economist	1
Total		**1**

C. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Country of nationality	*Function*	*Number of persons*
New Zealand	Indigenous people's rights lawyer	1
Total		**1**

Table 6
Numbers of regular staff in the departments or offices where type II gratis personnel performed functions

(As at 31 December 2001)

Department or office	*Staff in the Professional and higher categories*	*Staff in the General Service and related categories*	*Total staff*	*Number of gratis personnel*	*Ratio of gratis personnel to staff (percentage)*
ECA	162	383	545	1	0.2
ESCWA	86	162	248	1	0.4
OHCHR	93	65	158	1	0.6